



Committee: House Health and Government Operations Committee

Bill: Senate Bill 440 – Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland - Establishment

Hearing Date: March 22, 2022

Position: Support with Amendment

The Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) support with amendments *Senate Bill 440- Commission to Study the Health Care Workforce Crisis in Maryland – Establishment*.

LCPCM supports the creation of this Commission because Maryland, just as other states, is currently experiencing a crisis-level shortage in the number of behavioral health practitioners. We think a careful, comprehensive study could yield some concrete policy initiatives that will alleviate the shortages in the near-future and build our workforce to prevent future shortages.

We have a suggested amendment that will support the Commission’s work in examining behavioral health shortages. If we can provide any additional information, please contact Robyn Elliott at relliott@policypartners.net or (443) 926-3443.

Amendment 1:

On page 4, restore the list of health occupation boards as introduced in SB 440. As the Senate amended the bill, the Commission would exclude most boards of behavioral health practitioners from the Commission, which would make it difficult for the Commission to look at broad-based workforce issues for behavioral health.